

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 21-23 have been amended. The application continues to include claims 21-23. Reconsideration of the rejection of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

An RCE is being filed herewith.

Applicants thank the Examiner for meeting with the Applicants' representative on October 4, 2002 to discuss the application.

The Claims are Allowable Over the Prior Art

Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Perkins, U.S. Pat. No. 5,159,592 in view of Higgins, U.S. Pat. No. 5,953,350. The claims have been amended to recite that a process receives a network protocol address being received by the process "from an Internet access server" and that a query is received for a network protocol address "at a connection server". The claims have also been amended to recite that "a packet-based point-to-point communication" is established.

As discussed during the October 4, 2002 interview, the amended limitations distinguish the present invention over Perkins, Higgins, and the other cited prior art. Therefore, the application should now be allowable.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and favorable action in connection with this application.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Kenyon and Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

21. (Twice Amended) A computer program product for use with a server operatively coupled over a computer network to a plurality of processes, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having program code embodied thereon the program code comprising:

a. program code configured to receive the current network protocol address of one of the processes coupled to the network, the network protocol address being received by the process from an Internet access server;

b. program code configured to receive an identifier associated with said one process; and

c. program code configured to receive queries for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process from other processes over the computer network at a connection server, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one process and one of said other processes.

22. (Twice Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:

a. program code configured to receive a current network protocol address of a process coupled to a computer network, the network protocol address being received by the process from an Internet access server;

b. program code configured to receive an identifier associated with said one process; and

c. program code configured to receive queries for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process from other processes over the computer network at a connection server, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one process and one of said other processes.

23. (Twice Amended) In a computer system operatively coupled over a computer network to a plurality of processes, a method comprising the steps of:

a. receiving the current network protocol address of a process coupled to the network, the network protocol address being received by the process from an Internet access server;

b. receiving an identifier associated with said one process;

c. receiving a query for one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process from another of the processes over the computer network at a connection server; and

d. providing one of the network protocol address and the associated identifier of said one process to a said another process over the computer network, if the said one process is connected to the computer network, and to allow the establishment of a packet-based point-to-point communication between said one process and one of said another processes.